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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/801,438

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J. Gilmore Childers

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10/02/2008

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EXAMINER

LIE, ANGELA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2163

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/02/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/801,438	Applicant(s) CHILDERS ET AL.	
	Examiner ANGELA M. LIE	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application.

Claim 15 has been canceled.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnham et al (US Patent No. 7167910), hereafter referred to as Farnham, in view of Daniell et al (US Publication No. 2004/0158611), hereafter referred to as Daniell.**

3. **As to claims 1, 5, 10, and 13,** Farnham teaches a system and a method comprising: receiving, into memory of a computer system, information descriptive of two or more persons (Figure 2, step 202); generating, in the computer system, links associating two or more persons based upon the received information, wherein the links indicate a relationship between the two or more persons (Figure 4, wherein links connect individuals and Figure 2, step 212); receiving into the memory an identifier identifying a person and requesting links with a predefined specified number of degrees of separation (Figure 1, elements 110, 112, 114 and 116, wherein a social map/network can be created based on adjusted groupings, in particular the lowest degree of

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separation includes individuals with whom at least a predetermined number of email correspondence was exchanged (column 4, lines 62-67 and column 5, lines 1-4)); generating, in the computer system, a link associating the identified person with one or more other persons with the specified number of degrees of separation (Figure 2, steps 204, 206 and 208 and column 6, lines 46-62, wherein the cluster closest to the user is considered lower degree of separation while cluster having a lengthier distance from the user is considered having greater degree of separation); and outputting an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons with the predefined specified number of degrees of separation (Figure 2, step 212 and Figure 1, element 100). Farnham, however does not explicitly teach that an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons, wherein the disconnect indicates a separation in time regarding the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons. On the other hand, Daniell teaches a system for displaying social network in a form of a Instant Messenger list wherein a main user can easily view which of his/her friends from the social network are online and which one are offline (i.e. indication of disconnect indicating separation in time because those individuals are currently unavailable) (paragraph [0062], and also illustrated in figure 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Daniell about including an indicator whether an individual is offline (separated in time since he/she can not be contacted in a real-time) with Farnham's teaching about generating social map, in order to allow viewing which individuals are available online, in case the user desires to contact any of

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the people in the network. Moreover, the Examiner would also like to note that the above combination would be possible because Franhan embraces utilizing Instant messaging contacts (column 3, line 40).

4. **As to claims 2, 3, 8 and 11**, Franham further teaches a system and a method comprising the step of: receiving an indication of a particular type of link to be analyzed (Figure 1, wherein a user sets criteria according to which the type of link is determined, i.e. selecting contacts that are related to the user based on the predetermined criteria); and indicating a degree of separation between the identified person and the linked person (column 6, lines 46-62, wherein each successive cluster positioned further away from the user is considered having greater degree of separation with respect to the clusters that are located closer to the user).

5. **As to claims 4, 9, 12 and 14**, Franham also teaches a system and a method wherein the person comprises at least one of: an individual, a group, an organization, a corporation (column 3, lines 10-13).

6. **As to claim 6**, Franhan teaches a system wherein the system access device comprises at least one of a computer (column 3, line 37) and a personal digital assistant.

7. **As to claim 7**, Franhan teaches a system wherein a communications network conforms to the transmission control protocol/ internet protocol (column 4, lines 7, wherein internet protocol has to be utilized in order to access at least one of the applications such as Exchange, Instant Messenger etc).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 10 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Inquiry

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANGELA M. LIE whose telephone number is (571)272-8445. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wilson Lee/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2163
9/29/08

/Angela M Lie/
Examiner, Art Unit 2163